

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5191

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14092

LIMDIS

FOR LOWENSTEIN AND ENDERS FROM SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, IR

SUBJECT: EEC-IRAN PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. LAST NIGHT AT DINNER SOAMES RAISED THE QUESTION OF IRANIAN APPROACHES TO MEMBER STATES ON PREFERENTIAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS. HE WELCOMED USEC APPROACH TO HIM STATING STRONG U.S. VIEWS BUT HE HAS HEARD FROM CERTAIN MEMBER STATES THAT OUR EMBASSIES MAY HAVE DONE THIS TOO LOW LEVEL AND LOW KEY. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO HOLD MEMBER STATES IN LINE IF THEY FEEL U.S. FEELINGS NOT TOO STRONG BECAUSE OF IRAN'S OIL POSITION. HE USES ALL THE RIGHT ARGUMENTS AGAINST.

2. SOAMES ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT IF SECRETARY DOES NOT MENTION OUR CONCERNS TO IRANIANS THIS WEEK, THEY WILL IN TURN USE THAT SILENCE IN ARGUING WITH EUROPEANS THAT THIS U.S. POSITION IS LOW-LEVEL BUREAUCRATIC VIEW.

3. WE SUGGEST THAT YOU DO MESSAGE TO SECRETARY ASKING HIM TO EXPRESS OUR VIEW AT LEVEL BELOW SHAH, STRESSING WHAT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS WOULD DO TO WHOLE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM. YOU MAY SAY THAT WE SUGGESTED APPROACH ON THE
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BASIS OF OUR TALK WITH SOAMES.

SOHM

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